

Salem County Office of Archives and Records Management

90 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079 856-935-7510 ext. 8550 FAX 856-935-0961



TOWNS & TOWNSHIPS IN SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Note that facts have not been independently verified.

ALLOWAY This town has been known as Thompson's Bridge (for Benjamin Thompson, the manager of the Wistarburg glassworks), Allowaystown and since 1882 as Alloway. It at one point even had a nickname, Tadmore, bestowed by a local writer who referred to it in his writings as "Tadmore in the Wilderness". The name Alloway is derived from the Native American chief Alloes or Allowayes one of the signers of the first Indian Deed with John Fenwick in 1675. The Reeves Brother's maintained a shipyard in the decades between 1833 and 1859.

ALLOWAY TOWNSHIP Alloway is mentioned as early as 1701, but earlier the area was known as the Monmouth Precinct, which was 64,000 acres named by John Fenwick for the Duke of Monmouth. The Alloway River was at that time named Monmouth River. Other names have been Liberties of Alloways, Alloways Creek Precinct and the Allotment of Alloways. It was incorporated as a township in 1884. The township has had an intriguing history and notable was the establishment of the Wistarburg glassworks in 1738. This was the earliest successful glassworks in the Colonies and it was in operation until just after the American Revolution. In addition to the Reeves' shipyards, the area supported a variety of mills, brick kilns and even canning factories. The township includes Alloway, Aldine, Cohansey, Friesburg, Remsterville, Paradise Lakes, and a nature preserve (the Salem River Meadows Project).

CARNEY'S POINT TOWNSHIP Situated in Upper Penn's Neck, and formerly known as Upper Penn's Neck Township, this area was first known as Bout town. In 1727 Thomas Carney, an Irish immigrant, purchased a sizeable riverside farm tract, beside the Delaware, and it soon began to be called Carney's Point. The area remained rural and was a favorite riverside recreation area. During World War I the du Pont Company, who already owned much of Carney's original farm, greatly expanded their acreage and proceeded to enlarge their plant. They also built housing for their employees on a scale that exploded the local population. The township includes the Borough of Penns Grove, one of the most densely populated communities in Salem County, as well as Golf View, Golf Manor, Raines Corner, Cedar Crest Manor, and part of Deep Water(?) Because of its proximity to the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the township hosts the southern terminus of the New Jersey Turnpike. The Turnpike and Interstate Route 295 divide the township into thirds.

CENTERTON This small village was known as Centreville and previous to that Dayton's Bridge. It is situated south of Elmer on Centerton Lake and Muddy Run in Pittsgrove Township. The old tavern, the Centerton Inn, has been doing business here since some time in the 18th century when it served travelers enroute to and from Philadelphia.

ELMER BOROUGH This community has been known as Ticktown, Pittstown, and even nicknamed Terrapintown. It was incorporated as a Borough in 1893 when it was then named after Judge Lucius Q.C. Elmer. It is situated on Elmer Lake and Muddy Run on the dividing line between Pittsgrove and Upper Pittsgrove on Route 40 and it was a railroad terminus for the WJSSRR. The town was the home of John Pym's Grist Mill, Old Red Tavern, Brook's Shoe Factory (1886), and the Elmer Glass Factory (1896). In recent years the Elmer Hospital has become an important area facility serving the surrounding rural community.

ELSINBORO TOWNSHIP The precinct of Elsinboro, the smallest in Fenwick's Colony, was named for the Swedish fort, Elfsborg or Helsingborg (built in 1643). Native Americans called this area Wootessunsing. Situated to the west and the south of the City of Salem the township is bounded by the Delaware River to the west with an abundance of wetland marshes, meadows, creeks and canals. Elsinboro is mentioned as early as 1701 but was not incorporated until 1798. The long vanished New Haven Colony was established here in 1641. Oakwood Beach, a riverfront community, was started as a summer colony on the Delaware River.

HANCOCK'S BRIDGE In Lower Alloways Township on Alloway Creek sits the small, very early village of Hancock's Bridge. It has been known by this name since settlement in the late 1600s, being named for the Hancock family who built a substantial patterned brick house near the bridge (1734). With the construction of the King's Highway between Salem Town and Greenwich in 1707, Hancock's Bridge became a thriving community. A log

Quaker meeting house was built here in 1685, but it was replaced by a brick meeting house (in 1756) that was soon doubled in size with a brick addition. In 1778 the British attacked the Hancock House killing the Patriot forces sleeping there, including Judge Hancock as punishment for his support of the "traitors".

LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK TOWNSHIP This is the southernmost township in Salem County and was originally part of the Monmouth Precinct. It was divided into Upper and Lower Alloways Creek Townships in 1767 and was incorporated in 1798. The township includes Hancock's Bridge, Canton, Harmersville, Maskells Mill and in recent history, the nuclear power facility at Artificial Island. The Delaware River and Bay form the western border including miles of wetlands and the large park, known as the Mad Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area.

MANNINGTON TOWNSHIP Formerly Mannington Precinct or Manning's Town, this area is named for the local Indian Chief Maneto or Manning. The township is north and west of the City of Salem and includes the huge wetlands of Mannington Meadows, Kates Creek Meadow, Pine Island Meadow and Mannington Creek. Farmland makes up most of the township with names such as, Claysville, Pointers, Welchville, Marshalltown, and Halltown designating the various areas. The Memorial Hospital of Salem County and Mannington Mills, Inc. are both in Mannington just north of the Salem City line. The Lakeview County Complex overlaps the township line into Pilesgrove Township and houses the Salem County Vocational & Technical School, County Jail, Ware Agricultural Building, War Veterans Cemetery, etc.

OLDMAN'S TOWNSHIP As the last organized Salem County township, Oldmans was set off from Upper Penn's Neck Township in 1881. This is the northernmost township and borders Gloucester County, to the northeast, and the Delaware River, to the northwest. Oldmans is mostly rural with communities such as Pedricktown, Oldmans, Perkintown Station, Five Points, Kay Gardens, Perkintown, and Auburn. The township is divided into three sections by the New Jersey Turnpike and Interstate Route 295.

PENNS GROVE BOROUGH This was originally a small village on the Delaware River that grew up near Helm's Cove and later absorbed it. It was settled by Swedes but John Fenwick purchased the area from the local Indian Chieftains Tospaminke and Henaminke in the 1670s. Wm. Penn took over as proprietor in 1725. Settlement was slow to develop until a steamboat wharf was built in 1829. The village was named Penn's Grove and it remained a popular resort with inns, camp grounds and various recreation facilities. After French's Hotel and Grove was established (late 1800s), Penns Grove became transformed into an elegant riverside destination for celebrities and other well-heeled vacationers. The village was incorporated as a borough in 1902 and grew rapidly after the expansion of the nearby du Pont plants during both World Wars.

PENNSVILLE TOWNSHIP Formerly part of West Fenwick the township was called Lower Penn's Neck as early as 1701. This area of the County has been known as Penn's Neck, Kinseyville and Craven's Ferry. It is bordered to the west by the Delaware River and to the east by the major wetlands in Mannington Township. Pennsville Township is actually a peninsula and is bounded on the south by the Salem River. In the 1600s, before the arrival of John Fenwick, the area was settled by Swedes, Finns, and French Huguenots and was known as Obisquahassit and Finns Point. Early ferry service to New Castle, DE from Craven's Ferry made this an important hub with stage coach service to transport travelers between Salem Town and Philadelphia. Later the town became a favorite recreation area with tree shaded park, bathing beaches and an amusement park. Day boats from Philadelphia and Camden brought hosts of visitors to Pennsville during the season. From 1826 the name Pennsville applied only to the town but in 1965 it replaced Lower Penn's Neck and now applies to the entire township. The precinct includes large areas of parkland such as the Killcohook Wildlife management area at Finn's Point (home to Fort Mott and the National Cemetery), and large areas of wetlands that make up the Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Place names in the township include Harrisonville, Pleasant Point, Beaver Dam, Glennside and Churchtown.

PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP Named for Thomas Pyle, who in 1682 purchased 10,000 acres in this area of Salem County, the township was originally 84,000 acres but was reduced by the separation of Pittsgrove Township (1780s?). Pilesgrove was incorporated in 1798. The township surrounds the Borough of Woodstown and is bordered on the northeast by Gloucester County. An attraction of note in Pilesgrove is Cowtown, the oldest weekly running rodeo in the U.S. The Salem County fairgrounds are also in this township. Community names include Sharptown, Seven Stars, Cedarville, Yorketown, and Avis Mill Pond and park.

PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP This township has had a confusing history but was named in honor of Sir William Pitt. It is the most easterly of Salem County's townships and is enclosed on three sides by Gloucester and Cumberland counties. Pittsgrove was set off from Pilesgrove in 1769 and incorporated in 1798. In 1821 Centerville Township was subtracted but this was repealed in 1829. In 1867 a part was annexed by Cumberland County, but the land was

restored to Salem County in 1868. The Borough of Elmer sits on the line between Pittsgrove and Upper Pittsgrove. Major parklands in the township are Parvin State Park, Green Branch Park, Greenwood Wildlife Management Area, Union Lake Wildlife Management Areas and the Willow Grove Tract (Nature Conservancy). Communities of note are Centerton, Olivet, Greenville, Palatine, Willow Grove, Brotmanville, and Norma.

POLE TAVERN Originally called Champneys Corner and situated at a crossroads, the tavern and area received its name because of a Liberty Pole placed on the green in front of the tavern during the War of 1812. Pole Tavern had been a hot bed of activity at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War and the first regularly equipped military company in Salem County was organized here. Sadly the tavern burned to the ground in 1918. Today the area functions as a traffic circle for the confluence of routes 40, 77, 604 & 635.

QUINTON Formerly known as Quinton's Bridge this town was founded by early settlers moving out of Salem Town to the banks of the Alloways Creek (Monmouth River). It was named for an early settler and landowner, Tobias Quinton, and the bridge nearby. Any number of bridges has spanned the creek here and the latest version was completed in 2005. During the American Revolution Patriots fought with the British in a skirmish here at the time of Salem town's occupation. Quinton was the site of an early glassworks, shipyards, tavern and in later history the home to a number canning factories.

QUINTON TOWNSHIP Fiery politics led to the separation of this township from Upper Alloways Creek, now known as Alloway Township. The Republicans in 1873 proposed the separation and the Democrats fought it, however, the Republican controlled State Legislature in Trenton ran it through and it was signed by the Governor while local citizens were still rallying to prevent it. One of the smaller townships in the County it is bordered on the south by Cumberland County. Quinton is the one actual village in this township, but other communities are Elk Terrace, Burden Hill, Peck's Corner and Woodmere (which surrounds Woodmere Lake). The township is bisected by Route 49 that runs between Salem and Bridgton, to the south.

CITY OF SALEM Salem Town was founded by the Proprietor of the Colony, John Fenwick, in 1675. From the beginning it was meant to be the seat of government for the colony. Because of it's less than inviting location it was also called Swampe Towne and more kindly New Salem. Some historians say it was incorporated in 1695 but after the American Revolution it was definitely incorporated in 1798. In 1858 it was renamed Salem City and in 19?? it became the City of Salem. The boundaries have changed little over the centuries due in no small part to its being an island, surrounded by the Salem, Fenwick & Keasbey Creeks as well as a number of inlets, marshes and canals. It is the county seat for Salem and is still an active seaport and has been for over 300 years. Salem has been the home to a number of glassworks (the Anchor Glassworks is the last to to still operate here), canning factories, Mannington Mills, a flour mill, and numerous other industries. Historic preservationists organized during the 1970s to encourage restoration of the historic residences and public buildings in Salem and with a progressive Main Street Program, now some years in existence, the City is actively seeking new businesses and investors to revive the business center of the community.

SHARPTOWN Situated in Pilesgrove Township at the crossing of Old King's Highway and Route 40, this village has been an important community in the history of Salem County. In the 18th and early 19th centuries it was a stage coach stop, with two taverns, on the route between Salem Town and Camden. Originally it was named Blessington, after the home of Isaac Sharp, but later became Sharptown. Richman's Ice Cream was founded here in 1894.

UPPER PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP Upper Pittsgrove is one of the easternmost townships and is bordered on the northeast by Gloucester County. It was set off from Pittsgrove by an act of the State Legislature in 1846. The township has two small lakes, Daretown & Slabtown, and two private airports. It does boast a camp of national significance, Appel Farms Art and Music Center, which is not only a teaching facility but also brings in artists of great repute to perform and instruct. The township's bucolic setting is part of the appeal of Appel Farm.

WOODSTOWN The Borough of Woodstown was named for early settler Jaconias Wood. It was originally two settlements, Pilesgrove (north) and Millbrooke (south) that grew together. The town was called Woodsboro in 1797 but soon became Woodstown. It was incorporated as a Borough in 1882. In 1726 local Quakers organized in 1720 and erected a brick Meeting house of some substance in Woodstown in 1785 which still serves its congregation to this day. With a peaceful atmosphere and attractive situation Woodstown has always appealed to residents and visitors. At one time the town had four hotels to accommodate tourists.